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## NASP Salutes The Muster Project in Beckley, WV

Since 1990, The Muster Project has been working toward its mission to develop programs and services that would assist in the rehabilitation of youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

In 2002, the agency came to the aid of the juvenile court who, at the time, was handling an overwhelming number of cases for shoplifting. In collaboration with the court, and the juvenile probation department, the Muster Project began an "offense-specific" program to target the juvenile shoplifting offenders in their community utilizing the Youth Educational Shoplifting Program (Y.E.S. Program) as its core curriculum.

With the goal of reducing repeat offenses and lessening the court's caseload in mind, the three-member team of Marvin Smoot, Frank Williams and Lee Leftwich were trained by NASP to administer the Y.E.S. Program to the juvenile shoplifting offenders in Beckley, WV.

Today, their efforts have successfully reduced the number of shoplifting incidents in their community from close to 150 per year in 2001 to just 45

incidents in 2009. Over the last 9 years more than 500 juveniles have received the education necessary to help prevent them from repeating the shoplifting offense with only 4 juveniles re-offending.

Because of the program's clear value in the community, in the last 2 years the Muster Project has been able to garner funding and support for the Y.E.S. Program from its West Virginia State Representatives and Senators, Raleigh County delegates and the Fraternal Order of Police.

The Muster Project is currently working with major retailers in the Beckley Community, especially those hit hardest by shoplifters, for continuing support for indigent

families whose child would otherwise go without the education provided by the program.

We commend the Muster Project for all of their hard work and for making such a positive impact in their community.

Program Director Lee Leftwich can be reached at 304-253-7500.

*"For the Muster Project, the Y.E.S. Program has helped us accomplish our mission by reducing the probability that a child will become an adult offender" said the Project's Lee Leftwich. "The program has helped keep shoplifting in Raleigh County from becoming a gateway crime for kids."*

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SHOPLIFTING PREVENTION®

A Non-Profit Organization Founded by Peter Berlin • NASP originated from Shoplifters Anonymous, Inc.

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